(b) if so, to what extent;

(c) whether the Government are aware that the reduction will result in considerably encouraging the import of cheap liquor into the country; and

(d) what is the justification for such encouragement of imports in view of the Constitutional provisions and the various restrictions imposed on the domestic industry?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

The rates of Additional Duty of Customs, are given below :

Prior to 01-03-2002	
CIF price per case	Rate
Upto US $ 20	150%
Upto US $ 40	100%
Above US $ 40	75%
With effect from 01-03-2002	
CIF price per case	Rate
Upto US $ 25	75%
Exceeding US $ 25	50%

(c) and (d) The rates of Additional Customs Duty have been fixed so as to provide adequate protection to the domestic industry.

Complaints against New Pricing System

*35. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any complaints in the wake of the dismantling of administered price mechanism with regard to petroleum products from April 1, 2002;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) what are the details of the position with regard to the availability of these products?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (c) Petroleum, products are adequately available throughout the country. However, after the dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism, at the time of price increase of petrol and diesel with effect from the midnight of 3rd/4th June, 2002, a few complaints were received against the easy availability of these products.

Bilateral agreements on tourism

*36. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH :

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to sign bilateral agreements with 12 major tourism generating countries;

(b) if so, whether India and China have also signed a tourism pact;

(c) whether the agreement will bring more Chinese tourists into the country;

(d) if so, the main features of the agreement;

(e) by when the bilateral agreement with these 12 major countries will be signed; and

(f) to what extent it is likely to give a boost to the tourism industry in the country?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The main features of the agreement between India and China are as follows :—